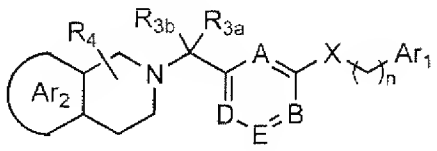
Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A compound of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

A, B, E, and D are independently CR_2 or N;

n is 0 or 1;

X is O, NH or CH_2 [[.]] ;

Ar_1 is phenyl or a 6-membered aromatic heterocycle, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a; or two adjacent substituents are taken together to form, with the ring atoms to which they are bound, a fused 5- or 6-membered ring substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a;

represents fused phenyl or a fused 6-membered aromatic heterocycle, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a; or two adjaeent substituents are taken together to form, with the ring atoms to which they are bound, a fused 5- or 6-membered ring substituted with from 0 to 3 substituents independently chosen from R_a;

R_2 is independently chosen at each occurrence from hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, amino, nitro, cyano, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, and mono- and di-(C_1-C_4alkyl)amino;

R_{3a} and R_{3b} are independently hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkyl or C_1-C_6haloalkoxy; or R_{3a} and R_{3b} are taken together to form an oxo group;

R_4 represents from 0 to 3 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, amino, nitro, cyano, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkyl, and C_1-C_6haloalkoxy; and

R_a is independently chosen at each occurrence from:

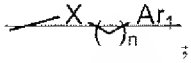
(i) hydroxy, halogen, amino, aminocarbonyl, cyano, nitro, and –COOH; and

(ii) C_1-C_8alkyl, C_2-C_8alkenyl, C_2-C_8alkynyl, C_1-C_8alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_8haloalkyl, C_1-C_8haloalkoxy, C_1-C_8alkanoyl, C_3-C_8alkanone, C_2-C_8alkoxycarbonyl, C_2-C_8alkanoyloxy, C_1-C_8alkylthio, C_2-C_8alkyl ether, phenylC_0-C_4alkyl, phenylC_0-C_4alkoxy, mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)aminoC_0-C_6alkyl, and (4- to 7-membered heterocycle)C_0-C_4alkyl; each of which is substituted with from 0 to 3 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, amino, cyano, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_1-C_4haloalkyl, C_1-C_4haloalkoxy, and mono- and di-(C_1-C_4alkyl)amino;

and wherein if:

(i) 

is unsubstituted phenyl, di-methoxy substituted phenyl, or phenyl substituted with phenyl (C_1-C_2alkoxy); and

(ii) A, B, E, and D are each CR_2; ~~G is a carbon atom covalently bound to the group~~ 

; and Ar_1 is phenyl,

then Ar_1 is substituted at the position *para* to the point of attachment with a substituent other than halogen.

2. (original) A compound or salt according to claim 1, wherein Ar_1 is phenyl or pyridyl, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, phenyl and phenoxy.

3. (original) A compound or salt according to claim 2, wherein Ar_1 is substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_2alkyl), C_1-C_4haloalkyl, C_1-C_4haloalkoxy and phenoxy.

4. (currently amended) A compound or salt according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein 

represents a fused ring chosen from phenyl and pyridyl, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, and mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino.

5-6. (canceled).

7. (original) A compound or salt according to claim 6, wherein Ar_2 is phenyl or pyridyl, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, phenyl and phenoxy.

8. (original) A compound or salt according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~, wherein each R_2 is independently chosen from hydrogen, halogen, amino, hydroxy, cyano, nitro, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_2alkyl), C_1-C_4haloalkyl and C_1-C_4haloalkoxy.

9. (original) A compound or salt according to claim 8, wherein A, B, E, and D are each CR_2.

10. (currently amended) A compound or salt according to claim 8 ~~claim 10~~, wherein 1 or 2 of A, B, E, and D is N, and the remainder are CR_2.

11. (currently amended) A compound or salt according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~, wherein R_{3a} is hydrogen, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_2-C_4alkenyl, C_2-C_4alkynyl, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_2alkyl) or C_1-C_4haloalkyl; and R_{3b} is hydrogen.

12. (canceled).

13. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~, wherein R_{3a} and R_{3b} are taken together to form an oxo group.

14. (currently amended) A compound or salt according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 13~~, wherein R_4 is 0, 1 or 2 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_2-C_4alkenyl, C_2-C_4alkynyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_2alkyl), C_1-C_4haloalkyl and C_1-C_4haloalkoxy.

15. (canceled).

16. (currently amended) A compound or salt according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 15~~, wherein n is 0.

17. (currently amended) A compound or salt according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 15~~, wherein n is 1.

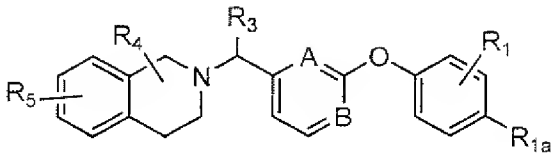
18. (original) A compound or salt according to claim 8, wherein:

Ar_1 is phenyl or pyridyl, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, phenyl and phenoxy;

represents phenyl or pyridyl, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, and mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino; and

R_4 represents 0, 1 or 2 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_2-C_4alkenyl, C_2-C_4alkynyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_2alkyl), C_1-C_2haloalkyl, and C_1-C_2haloalkoxy.

19. (original) A compound or salt according to claim 1, having the formula:



wherein:

A and B are independently CR_2 or N;

each R_2 is independently chosen from hydrogen, halogen, amino, hydroxy, cyano, nitro, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_2alkyl), C_1-C_4haloalkyl and C_1-C_4haloalkoxy;

R_{1a} is hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, mono- or di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, phenyl or phenoxy;

R_1 represents from 0 to 3 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, phenyl, and phenoxy;

R_3 is hydrogen, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl or C_1-C_6haloalkyl;

R_4 represents 0, 1 or 2 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_2-C_4alkenyl, C_2-C_4alkynyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_2alkyl), C_1-C_4haloalkyl, and C_1-C_4haloalkoxy; and

R_5 represents from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a; or two adjacent R_5 are taken together to form a fused 5- or 6-membered ring substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a.

20. (original) A compound or salt according to claim 19, wherein one of A and B is nitrogen.

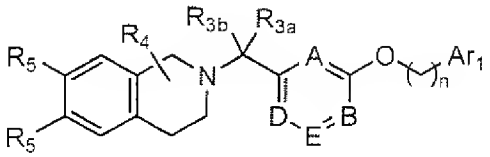
21. (original) A compound or salt according to claim 19, wherein A and B are CH.

22. (currently amended) A compound or salt according to claim 19 ~~any one of claims 19 to 21~~, wherein R_{1a} is hydroxy, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkoxy or phenoxy.

23. (canceled).

24. (currently amended) A compound or salt according to claim 19 ~~any one of claims 19 to 23~~, wherein R_5 represents from 1 to 3 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, and mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino.

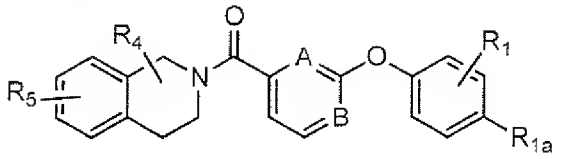
25. (currently amended) A compound or salt according to claim 1, having the formula:



[[+]]

wherein each R_5 is independently chosen from hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, and mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino.

26. (original) A compound or salt according to claim 1, having the formula:



wherein:

A and B are independently CR_2 or N;

each R_2 is independently chosen from hydrogen, halogen, amino, hydroxy, cyano, nitro, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_2alkyl), C_1-C_4haloalkyl and C_1-C_4haloalkoxy;

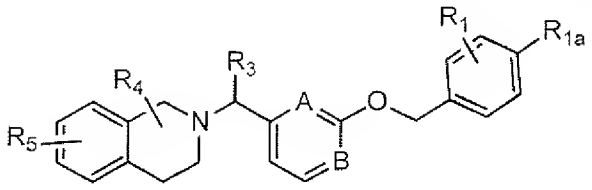
R_{1a} is hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, mono- or di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, phenyl and phenoxy;

R_1 represents from 0 to 3 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, phenyl and phenoxy;

R_4 represents 0, 1 or 2 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_2-C_4alkenyl, C_2-C_4alkynyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_2alkyl), C_1-C_4haloalkyl and C_1-C_4haloalkoxy; and

R_5 represents from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a; or two adjacent R_5 are taken together to form a fused 5- or 6-membered ring substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a.

27. (original) A compound or salt according to claim 1, having the formula:



wherein:

A and B are independently CR_2 or N;

each R_2 is independently chosen from hydrogen, halogen, amino, hydroxy, cyano, nitro, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_2alkyl), C_1-C_4haloalkyl, and C_1-C_4haloalkoxy;

R_{1a} is hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, phenyl or phenoxy;

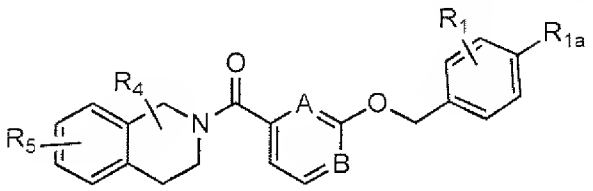
R_1 represents from 0 to 3 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, phenyl, and phenoxy;

R_3 is hydrogen, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl or C_1-C_6haloalkyl;

R_4 represents 0, 1 or 2 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_2-C_4alkenyl, C_2-C_4alkynyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_4haloalkyl and C_1-C_4haloalkoxy; and

R_5 represents from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a; or two adjacent R_5 are taken together to form a fused 5- or 6-membered ring substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a.

28. (original) A compound or salt according to claim 1, having the formula:



wherein:

A and B are independently CR_2 or N;

each R_2 is independently chosen from hydrogen, halogen, amino, hydroxy, cyano, nitro, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_1-C_4haloalkyl, and C_1-C_4haloalkoxy;

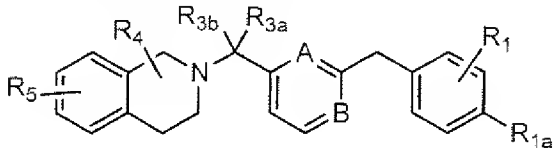
R_{1a} is hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_2alkyl), C_2-C_6alkyl ether, mono- or di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, phenyl or phenoxy;

R_1 represents from 0 to 3 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, phenyl and phenoxy;

R_4 represents 0, 1 or 2 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_2-C_4alkenyl, C_2-C_4alkynyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_2alkyl), C_1-C_4haloalkyl and C_1-C_4haloalkoxy; and

R_5 represents from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a; or two adjacent R_5 are taken together to form a fused 5- or 6-membered ring substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a.

29. (original) A compound or salt according to claim 1, having the formula:



wherein:

A and B are independently CR_2 or N;

each R_2 is independently chosen from hydrogen, halogen, amino, hydroxy, cyano, nitro, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_2alkyl), C_1-C_4haloalkyl, and C_1-C_4haloalkoxy;

R_{1a} is hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, mono- or di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, phenyl or phenoxy;

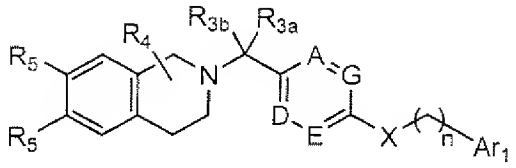
R_1 represents from 0 to 3 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, phenyl and phenoxy;

R_{3a} and R_{3b} are independently hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl or C_1-C_6haloalkyl; or R_{3a} and R_{3b} are taken together to form an oxo group;

R_4 represents 0, 1 or 2 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_2-C_4alkenyl, C_2-C_4alkynyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_2alkyl), C_1-C_4haloalkyl and C_1-C_4haloalkoxy; and

R_5 represents from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a; or two adjacent R_5 are taken together to form a fused 5- or 6-membered ring substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a.

30. (original) A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof having the formula:



wherein

A, G, E, and D are independently CR_2 or N;

n is 0 or 1;

X is oxygen or CH_2;

Ar_1 is phenyl or a 6-membered aromatic heterocycle, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a; or two adjacent substituents are taken together to form, with the ring atoms to which they are bound, a fused 5- or 6-membered ring substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a;

R_2 is independently chosen at each occurrence from hydrogen, halogen, amino, hydroxy, cyano, nitro, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_2alkyl), C_1-C_4haloalkyl and C_1-C_4haloalkoxy;

R_{3a} is hydroxy, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkyl or C_1-C_6haloalkoxy;

R_{3b} is hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkyl or C_1-C_6haloalkoxy; or R_{3a} and R_{3b} are taken together to form an oxo group;

R_4 represents from 0 to 3 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, amino, nitro, cyano, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkyl and C_1-C_6haloalkoxy;

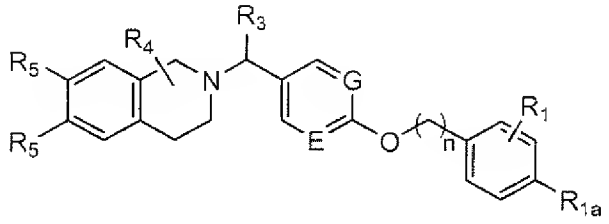
R_5 is independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, and mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, and

R_a is independently chosen at each occurrence from:

(i) hydroxy, halogen, amino, aminocarbonyl, cyano, nitro, and –COOH; and

(ii) C_1-C_8alkyl, C_2-C_8alkenyl, C_2-C_8alkynyl, C_1-C_8alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_8haloalkyl, C_1-C_8haloalkoxy, C_1-C_8alkanoyl, C_3-C_8alkanone, C_2-C_8alkoxycarbonyl, C_2-C_8alkanoyloxy, C_1-C_8alkylthio, C_2-C_8alkyl ether, phenylC_0-C_4alkyl, phenylC_0-C_4alkoxy, mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)aminoC_0-C_6alkyl, and (4- to 7-membered heterocycle)C_0-C_4alkyl; each of which is substituted with from 0 to 3 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, amino, cyano, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_1-C_4haloalkyl, C_1-C_4haloalkoxy, and mono- and di-(C_1-C_4alkyl)amino.

31. (currently amended) A compound or salt according to claim 30, having the formula:



wherein

G and E are independently CR_2 or N;

each R_2 is independently chosen from hydrogen, halogen, amino, hydroxy, cyano, nitro, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_2alkyl), C_1-C_4haloalkyl, and C_1-C_4haloalkoxy;

R_{1a} is hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, mono- or di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, phenyl or phenoxy;

R_1 represents from 0 to 3 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, phenyl, and phenoxy;

R_3 is C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl or C_1-C_6haloalkyl;

R_4 represents 0, 1 or 2 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_2-C_4alkenyl, C_2-C_4alkynyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_2alkyl), C_1-C_4haloalkyl and C_1-C_4haloalkoxy; and

R_5 is independently chosen at each occurrence from R_a.

32. (original) A compound or salt according to claim 30 wherein X is oxygen and A, G, D, and E are all CR_2.

33. (original) A compound or salt according to claim 31, wherein at least one of G and E is nitrogen.

34. (currently amended) A compound or salt according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 33~~, wherein the compound exhibits a K_i of 1 micromolar or less in a MCH receptor ligand binding assay ~~and/or an IC_{50} of 1 micromolar or less in a MCH receptor-mediated calcium mobilization assay~~.

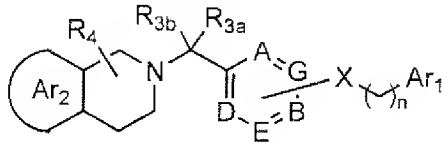
35-37. (canceled).

38. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a compound or salt according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 33~~, in combination with at least one physiologically acceptable carrier or excipient.

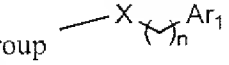
39. (original) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 38, wherein the composition is formulated as an injectible fluid, an aerosol, a cream, a gel, a pill, a capsule, a syrup or a transdermal patch.

40. (currently amended) A packaged pharmaceutical preparation, comprising:

(a) a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one physiologically acceptable carrier or excipient together with a compound of the formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; wherein:

A, E, and D are independently CR_2 or N; and one of B and G is chosen from CR_2 and N; and the other of B and G is a carbon atom covalently bound to the group  [[.]] ;

X is O, NH or CH_2;

n is 0 or 1;

Ar_1 is phenyl or a 6-membered aromatic heterocycle, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a; or two adjacent substituents are taken together to form, with the ring atoms to which they are bound, a fused 5- or 6-membered ring substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a;

represents fused phenyl or a fused 6-membered aromatic heterocycle, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a; or two adjacent substituents are taken together to form, with the ring atoms to which they are bound, a fused 5- or 6-membered ring substituted with from 0 to 3 substituents independently chosen from R_a;

R_2 is independently chosen at each occurrence from hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, amino, nitro, cyano, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, and mono- and di-(C_1-C_4alkyl)amino;

R_{3a} and R_{3b} are independently hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkyl or C_1-C_6haloalkoxy; or R_{3a} and R_{3b} are taken together to form an oxo group;

R_4 represents from 0 to 3 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, amino, nitro, cyano, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkyl, and C_1-C_6haloalkoxy;

R_a is independently chosen at each occurrence from:

(i) hydroxy, halogen, amino, aminocarbonyl, cyano, nitro, and –COOH; and

(ii) C_1-C_8alkyl, C_2-C_8alkenyl, C_2-C_8alkynyl, C_1-C_8alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_8haloalkyl, C_1-C_8haloalkoxy, C_1-C_8alkanoyl, C_3-C_8alkanone, C_2-C_8alkoxycarbonyl, C_2-C_8alkanoyloxy, C_1-C_8alkylthio, C_2-C_8alkyl ether, phenylC_0-C_4alkyl, phenylC_0-C_4alkoxy, mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)aminoC_0-C_6alkyl, and (4- to 7-membered heterocycle)C_0-C_4alkyl; each of which is substituted with from 0 to 3 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, amino, cyano, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_1-C_4haloalkyl, C_1-C_4haloalkoxy, and mono- and di-(C_1-C_4alkyl)amino;

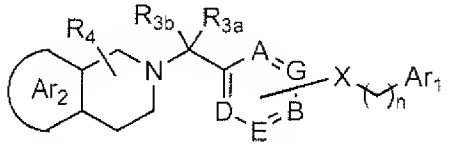
(b) in a container; and

(c) instructions for using the composition to treat a patient suffering from a disorder associated with MCH receptor activation.

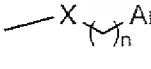
41. (original) A packaged pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 40, wherein the disorder is an eating disorder, sexual disorder, obesity, diabetes, heart disease or stroke.

42-52. (canceled).

53. (currently amended) A method for treating a disease or disorder associated with MCH receptor activation, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; wherein:

A, E, and D are independently CR_2 or N; and one of B and G is chosen from CR_2 and N; and the other of B and G is a Carbon atom covalently bound to the group:  [[.]] ;

X is O, NH or CH_2;

n is 0 or 1;

Ar_1 is phenyl or a 6-membered aromatic heterocycle, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a; or two adjacent substituents are taken together to form, with the ring atoms to which they are bound, a fused 5- or 6-membered ring substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a;

represents fused phenyl or a fused 6-membered aromatic heterocycle, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a; or two adjacent substituents are taken together to form, with the ring atoms to which they are bound, a fused 5- or 6-membered ring substituted with from 0 to 3 substituents independently chosen from R_a;

R_2 is independently chosen at each occurrence from hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, amino, nitro, cyano, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, and mono- and di-(C_1-C_4alkyl)amino;

R_{3a} and R_{3b} are independently hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkyl or C_1-C_6haloalkoxy; or R_{3a} and R_{3b} are taken together to form an oxo group;

R_4 represents from 0 to 3 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, amino, nitro, cyano, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkyl, and C_1-C_6haloalkoxy;

R_a is independently chosen at each occurrence from:

(i) hydroxy, halogen, amino, aminocarbonyl, cyano, nitro, and –COOH; and

(ii) C_1-C_8alkyl, C_2-C_8alkenyl, C_2-C_8alkynyl, C_1-C_8alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_8haloalkyl, C_1-C_8haloalkoxy, C_1-C_8alkanoyl, C_3-C_8alkanone, C_2-C_8alkoxycarbonyl, C_2-C_8alkanoyloxy, C_1-C_8alkylthio, C_2-C_8alkyl ether, phenylC_0-C_4alkyl, phenylC_0-C_4alkoxy, mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)aminoC_0-C_6alkyl, and (4- to 7-membered heterocycle)C_0-C_4alkyl; each of which is substituted with from 0 to 3 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, amino, cyano, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_1-C_4haloalkyl, C_1-C_4haloalkoxy, and mono- and di-(C_1-C_4alkyl)amino.

54. (original) A method according to claim 53, wherein the disease or disorder is an eating disorder, sexual disorder, diabetes, heart disease or stroke.

55. (original) A method according to claim 53, wherein the compound or salt is administered orally.

56. (original) A method according to claim 53, wherein the compound or salt is administered intranasally, intravenously or topically.

57. (original) A method according to claim 53, wherein the patient is a human.

58. (original) A method according to claim 53, wherein the patient is a dog or a cat.

59. (currently amended) A method for treating obesity, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1 to 33~~.

60. (original) A method according to claim 59, wherein the compound or salt is administered orally.

61. (currently amended) A method according to claim 59 ~~or claim 60~~, wherein the patient is a human.

62. (currently amended) A method according to claim 59 ~~or claim 60~~, wherein the patient is a dog or a cat.

63-66. (canceled).

67. (currently amended) A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the compound is:

(3-Benzyl-phenyl)-(6,7-dimethoxy-3,4-dihydro-1H-isoquinolin-2-yl)-methanone;

(6,7-Dimethoxy-3,4-dihydro-1H-isoquinolin-2-yl)-(3-phenoxy-phenyl)-methanone;

(6,7-Dimethoxy-3,4-dihydro-1H-isoquinolin-2-yl)-[6-(2-ethyl-phenoxy)-pyridin-2-yl]-methanone;

(6,7-Dimethoxy-3,4-dihydro-1H-isoquinolin-2-yl)-[6-(3-ethyl-phenoxy)-pyridin-2-yl]-methanone;

2-(3-Benzyl-benzyl)-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

2-[1-(3-Benzyloxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

2-[1-(3-Benzyloxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

2-[1-(3-Phenoxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

2-[1-(4-Benzyloxy-3,5-dimethyl-phenyl)-ethyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

2-[1-(4-Benzyloxy-3,5-dimethyl-phenyl)-ethyl]-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

2-[1-(4-Benzyloxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

2-[1-(4-Benzyloxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

2-[1-(4-Phenoxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

2-[2-(4-Isopropyl-phenoxy)-pyridin-4-ylmethyl]-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

2-[2-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenoxy)-pyridin-4-ylmethyl]-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

2-[3-(3,4-Dichloro-phenoxy)-benzyl]-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

2-[3-(4-Ethoxy-phenoxy)-benzyl]-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

2-[3-(4-Isopropyl-phenoxy)-benzyl]-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

2-[3-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenoxy)-2-methyl-benzyl]-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

2-[3-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-benzyl]-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

2-[3-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenoxy)-benzyl]-6,7-dichloro-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

2-[3-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenoxy)-benzyl]-6,7-diethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

2-[3-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenoxy)-benzyl]-6,7-dimethoxy-1,1-dimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

2-[3-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenoxy)-benzyl]-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

2-[3-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenoxy)-benzyl]-6,7-dimethoxy-1-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

2-[3-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenoxy)-benzyl]-6,7-dimethoxy-3-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

2-[3-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenoxy)-benzyl]-6-ethoxy-7-methoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

2-[3-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenoxy)-benzyl]-6-methoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

2-[3-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenoxy)-benzyl]-7-ethoxy-6-methoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

[2-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenoxy)-pyridin-4-yl]-(6,7-dimethoxy-3,4-dihydro-1H-isoquinolin-2-yl)-methanone;

2-[6-(2-Ethyl-phenoxy)-pyridin-2-ylmethyl]-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

2-[6-(3-Ethyl-phenoxy)-pyridin-2-ylmethyl]-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

2-[6-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenoxy)-pyridin-2-ylmethyl]-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

2-{1-[3-(3,4-Dichloro-phenoxy)-phenyl]-ethyl}-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

2-{1-[3-(3,4-Dichloro-phenoxy)-phenyl]-ethyl}-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

2-{1-[3-(4-Chloro-phenoxy)-phenyl]-ethyl}-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

2-{1-[3-(4-Chloro-phenoxy)-phenyl]-ethyl}-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

2-{1-[3-(4-Methoxy-phenoxy)-phenyl]-ethyl}-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

2-{1-[3-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenoxy)-phenyl]-ethyl}-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

2-{1-[3-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenoxy)-phenyl]-ethyl}-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

[3-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenoxy)-2-methyl-phenyl]-(6,7-dimethoxy-3,4-dihydro-1H-isoquinolin-2-yl)-methanone;

4-[3-(6,7-Dimethoxy-3,4-dihydro-1H-isoquinolin-2-ylmethyl)-phenoxy]-benzonitrile;

6,7-Dimethoxy-2-(3-p-tolyloxy-benzyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

6,7-Dimethoxy-2-[1-(3-phenoxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

6,7-Dimethoxy-2-[1-(4-phenoxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

6,7-Dimethoxy-2-[3-(3,4,5-trimethoxy-phenoxy)-benzyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

6,7-Dimethoxy-2-[3-(4-methoxy-phenoxy)-benzyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

6,7-Dimethoxy-2-[3-(4-phenoxy-phenoxy)-benzyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

6,7-Dimethoxy-2-[3-(4-trifluoromethoxy-phenoxy)-benzyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

6,7-Dimethoxy-2-[3-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-benzyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

6,7-Dimethoxy-2-{1-[3-(4-methoxy-phenoxy)-phenyl]-ethyl}-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

6-[3-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenoxy)-benzyl]-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-[1,3]dioxolo[4,5-g]isoquinoline;

7-Ethoxy-2-[2-(4-isopropyl-phenoxy)-pyridin-4-ylmethyl]-6-methoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;

~~or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.~~

68-121. (canceled).